



### All Creatures



I just can't seem to help it,  
I love creatures – great and small,  
But it's ones that others do not like  
I love the best of all.

I like creepy-crawly beetles  
And shiny black-backed bugs,  
Gnats and bats and spiders,  
And slimy fat black slugs.

I like chirpy little crickets  
And buzzing bumblebees,  
Lice and mice and ladybirds,  
And tiny jumping fleas.

I like wasps and ants and locusts,  
Centipedes and snails,  
Moles and voles and earwigs  
And rats with long pink tails.

I like giant moths with dusty wings  
And maggots fat and white,  
Worms and germs and weevils,  
And fireflies in the night.

No, I just can't seem to help it,  
To me not one's a pest,  
It's ones that others do not like,  
I seem to love the best.

So it makes it rather difficult,  
It's enough to make me cry,  
Because my job's in pest control,  
And I just couldn't hurt a fly.

*By Gervase Phinn*

## Noun Phrases – Revision Card

### Nouns and Determiners

A **noun** names a person, place, idea, thing or feeling.

*a slug*  
*the beetles*  
*an ant*  
*a job*

In front of a **noun**, we often have

**a an the** <sup>determiners</sup>

### Adjectives

An **adjective** is a describing word.  
It tells you more about a **noun**.



*a black slug*  
*the creepy beetles*  
*a tiny ant*  
*a difficult job*

*The job is difficult.*

**Adjectives** sometimes come next to 'their' **nouns**...  
*but sometimes they do not.*

### Noun Phrases

A **noun phrase** adds extra detail to the **noun**.

noun phrase

*a black slug*  
*the creepy beetles*  
*a tiny ant*  
*a difficult job*  
*a completely black slug*  
*the very creepy beetles*

**Adverbs** can also be part of a noun phrase.

It can be made by adding an **adjective** or two.

The **noun phrase** includes the **noun**, **adjectives** and **determiner**.

### Spotting a Noun Phrase

A **noun phrase** can be replaced by a **pronoun**.

A black slug chewed the leaves.  
The creepy beetles scuttled by.  
A tiny ant twitched its antennae.  
The poem is about a difficult job.

**It** chewed the leaves.  
**They** scuttled by.  
**He** twitched its antennae.  
The poem is about **it**.



We can use this fact to help us spot **noun phrases**.

### Spotting Noun Phrases

**Highlight** the noun phrase and underline the head noun.  
*The first has been done for you.*

A huge, hairy spider is on your shoulder.

The rather nervous grey mouse nibbled slowly.

I spotted a long pink tail!

Our picnic was spoilt by relentlessly vicious wasps.

The black, shiny beetles swarmed around the dung.

A slug left a sticky, glistening trail.

The tiny, powerful crickets jumped incredibly high.

The never-resting, always-destructive moles have dug  
holes all over the lawn.

## Poem Planner



1. **Write a list of nouns** – types of animals. Keep going until you have at least ten.  
(e.g. *foxes, badgers, hedgehogs, owls, etc.*)
2. Choose one noun as your head noun. **Build a noun phrase around this head noun**, using adjectives, adverbs and other words.  
(e.g. *steadily busy, little prickly hedgehogs*)
3. Repeat this until you have **lots of noun phrases** to choose from.
4. **Pick your best six** and reread them, thinking about the impact. **Edit** so that your words are really powerful.  
(e.g. *very remarkably bold, ~~bright~~ jewel-eyed foxes*)
5. **Write your noun phrases as a list poem**, in a similar style to *All Creatures*.

e.g.

### *All Animals*

*I like remarkably bold, jewel-eyed foxes.  
I like steadily busy, prickly hedgehogs.  
I like proud, striped shovel-snouted snuffling badgers.  
I like terrifying ghost-faced barn owls.*